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The President's Daily Brief

July 15, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

July 15, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

Egypt

(Page 1)

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Saudi Arabia

[Redacted]

(Page 2)

Lao Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma's condition is currently stable.

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(Page 3)

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Portugal's new cabinet, under Lieutenant Colonel Vasco de Goncalves, will be more responsive to the Armed Forces Movement than the previous government was. (Page 4)

The Greek-led Cypriot National Guard has overthrown President Makarios, who reportedly has been killed. Intercommunal fighting has broken out between Greeks and Turks on the island. (Page 5)

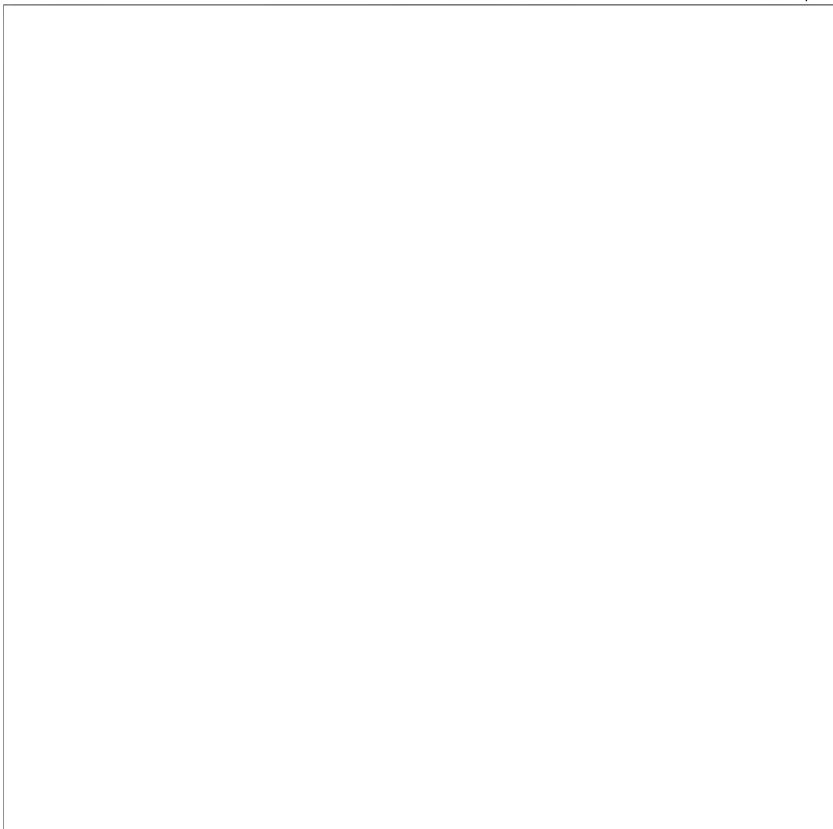
Notes on USSR-Somalia and East - West Germany appear on Page 6.

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EGYPT

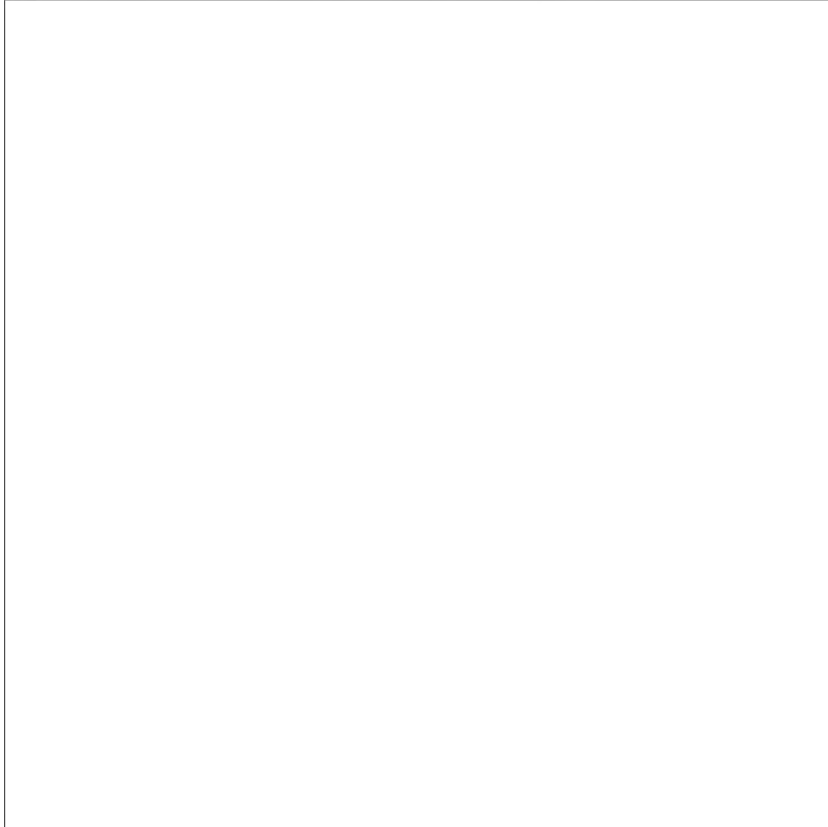
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EGYPT - SAUDI ARABIA



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LAOS

Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma's condition is currently stable.

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[redacted] Souvanna apparently believes that he will have to be evacuated from Vientiane. Both Communist and non-Communist leaders are apprehensive over the political consequences of the Prime Minister's absence from the country. Communist Deputy Prime Minister Phoumi Vongvichit told the US ambassador on Saturday that the evacuation of Souvanna would be a "serious matter," and that he hoped no hasty decisions would be made.

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So far, there has been little public reaction from either the Communists or non-Communists to the news of Souvanna's heart attack. Pathet Lao radio-broadcasts over the weekend claimed that Lao army units throughout the country have been placed on alert, but they did not mention Souvanna's illness. Communist leader Prince Souphanouvong has come to Vientiane to be at his brother's bedside.

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PORTUGAL

President Spinoia's appointment Saturday of Lieutenant Colonel Vasco de Goncalves as prime minister will make the cabinet more responsive to the Armed Forces Movement. Colonel Goncalves is a leading member of the Executive Committee of the Armed Forces Movement, which brought the Spinoia government to power.

Spinoia's first prime minister, Palma Carlos, was ousted, among other reasons, because of differences with this group. The movement opposed Palma Carlos' demand for an early presidential election as a basis for legitimizing the regime and his desire to delay legislative elections beyond the time set by the movement.

The choice of Colonel Goncalves may represent a setback for Spinoia.

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Perhaps as a result of the outgoing cabinet's difficulties in controlling labor unrest, President Spinoia and his military advisers have taken additional steps to maintain control. A decree issued over the weekend established a Continental Operations Command empowered to maintain order when normal police forces are inadequate. The command will be directed by a close supporter of General Spinoia.

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CYPRUS

President Makarios was reported killed this morning and his regime overthrown by the Cypriot National Guard, led by Greek officers. The presidential palace is in flames. Makarios was Cyprus' only president since independence in 1960.

Shortly after Nicosia radio broadcast reports of the coup and the archbishop's death, intercommunal fighting was reported between Greeks and Turks living on the island. The National Guard warned citizens not to resist, threatening execution for resistance, and promised to broadcast a declaration later today.

Makarios had insisted for several weeks that Athens recall its officers because he was convinced they were plotting his overthrow in conjunction with a terrorist organization whose objective is immediate union of Cyprus with Greece.

There is no information as yet from Ankara, but in past crises on Cyprus, the Turkish military have threatened to go to the assistance of Turks living on the island. Perhaps with Turkey in mind, a guard broadcast has described the situation as "internal" to Cyprus, concerning Greek Cypriots only.

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NOTES

USSR-Somalia: Soviet officials in Mogadiscio have disclosed that the friendship treaty with Somalia, signed last Thursday, will not be published until "after ratification." This procedure differs from Soviet practice in handling earlier friendship accords with Egypt, Iraq, and India. In those instances, the parties released a text immediately after signature, and the delay in the present case suggests some difficulties. The problem could be over military aid to Somalia or Soviet access to Somali facilities--subjects that were not included in the joint communiqué released on Friday.

West Germany - East Germany: West German President Scheel plans to sign today the bill providing for the opening of the Federal Environmental Office in West Berlin. The date for its opening has yet to be determined. An East German source recently told the US mission in West Berlin that his government would continue to oppose establishment of the office but would not engage in any "stupidities."

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